AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following amended paragraph:

~~2.~~ 4. The CRH system in gastrointestinal tract (GI) inflammation

The CRH family of peptides is expressed along the whole length of the GI tract. Indeed, CRH is produced by enterochromaffin cells in human colon while UCN is detectable in both rat stomach and colon. Recently published reports suggest that the CRH family of peptides and their receptors participate in the regulation of GI motility as well as in the GI response to inflammatory processes. Indeed, it is now well established that CRH is present in the colonic mucosa of patients with ulcerative colitis playing a local pro-inflammatory role. In addition, UCN has been identified in macrophages in the lamina propria of human colonic mucosa, participating in the regulation of the local inflammatory response. In general, it appears that the effect of the CRH family of peptides in the GI tract is receptor type specific and that the CRH-R1 and CRH-R2 receptors have more or less opposing effects. Indeed, activation of the CRH-R1 receptor results in amplification of colonic propulsive activity whereas activation of the CRH-R2 receptor results in inhibition of gastric emptying rate in mice and rats.